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Church Staff

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Church Office





December Newsletter 2019

Our Mission Statement: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ who will love God, love others and serve the world."

2020 Offering envelopes are available for pick up on Sundays in the back of the sanctuary.

China Spring Cares Christmas & Volunteer information on pg. 6.





See back page for details!

EVENTS FOR THIS MONTH

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday, 9am in the fellowship hall

UMW: UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Tuesday, December 17th at 11am Program: Christmas Party Bring unwrapped gift for Care Net Pregnancy Center Installation of officers

UMM: UNITED METHODIST MEN

Saturday, December 7th at 8:30 am in Youth BLDG.

This month's Special Offering went to:

United Methodist Student Day

Christmas Eve Offering goes to: **China Spring Cares**

Join us on Facebook or Chinaspringumc.com

November in Review

	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24	
8:30 Worship	62	93	52	47	
Sunday School	41	41	36	24	
11:00 Worship	118	119	116	89	
Other Groups	201	175	203	63	
Budgeted weekly	6484	6484	6484	6484	\$25,936 For Month
Tithe	9575	5014	5291	3799	\$23,679
Received					For Month
Budgeted Giving Year to Date					\$304,053
Giving Received Year to Date					\$278,033
Monthly Offering United Methodist Student Day	147	0	0	0	\$2,453 Year to Date
Building on Faith	5095	245	1970	695	TOTAL: \$923,072
Desig. Gifts	338	415	1200	446	\$29,049

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China Spring United Methodist December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Womens' Bible Study 9am	Family Dinner 5:30pm Youth 6pm Kids' Choir 6:15 Bible Worms 7 Adult Choir 7	5	6	7 Men's Ministry Meeting 8:30am Youth BLDG.
8	Administrative Council Meeting 6:30pm	Womens' Bible Study 9am China Spring Cares gifts are DUE!	Family Dinner 5:30pm Youth 6pm Kids' Choir 6:15 Bible Worms 7 Adult Choir 7 CSC 6-8pm	12	13 China Spring Cares (CSC) workday 10am—noon	CSC Event 9am-noon Noon– 3pm Prime Rib Dinner for ticket holders 6pm
Children's Choir Performance at 11am VBS Planning Meeting 12:15pm	16	Womens' Bible Study 9am UMW 11 am	Youth Progressive Dinner Children's Ministry Christmas Activity 5pm Adult Choir 7pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services at 5 & 7pm	25 MERRY PRISTAS ICE CLOS	26 ED	27	28
29	30	NEW YEARS EVE	Jan 1 New YEAR 2020 OFFICE CLOSED	All Wednesday activities resume Jan 8th	Sunday WORSHIP 8:30 am 11:00 am Sunday School 9:45am secretary@chinas	Church Phone Number 254-836-1107 springumc.com



January 31 – February 2, 2020

Mid-Winter Retreat "Focus"

Glen Lake Camp

Get ready for an amazing weekend as Central Texas Conference Youth in grades 6-12 join together for worship, small groups, games, music, and fellowship. Your registration fee is all-inclusive (meals, lodging, worship band, Mid-Winter t-shirt, etc.). Registration is \$100 for the early bird rate and \$125 if registered after January 4. Please contact Matt if you would like to sponsor a student this year. Adult volunteers are also needed.

CHINA SPRING CARES (CSC) CHRISTMAS

Once you have purchased the gifts, please wrap and label each gift with your student's number (i.e. S #89). Place them in a bag all together (a black trash bag if you have one, if not we have them). Please turn in the gifts

by December 10th. You may drop them off at the

CSISD Administration Building or here at church office.

Work dates to prepare for our Christmas Event: Wednesday, December 11th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and Friday, December 13th from 10:00am to noon.

This volunteer opportunity is for all ages!

We will be decorating the doors with Xmas paper, organizing the clothes, stuffing the stockings, setting out things on our "take if needed" table, etc. If you have any Xmas decorations that you are no longer using, and you think we could use them at CSC, please bring them!

Here is the link to sign up: https://signup.com/go/vuBEOBw

China Spring Cares' Christmas event is on Saturday, December 14th!
The link to do that is https://signup.com/go/nvnwRwL. We will have two shifts: 9:00am to noon and noon to 3:00pm. We need lots of volunteers

This past Sunday, I included the words: "Happy New Year" in my welcome and greeting at the beginning of both services. The look on many of the faces indicated to me that many thought I had come back from vacation having lost my mind...

As I explained, in the <u>liturgical calendar of the church</u>, (stay tuned for next month's newsletter and I will explain what that is) Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians. During Advent, we of course prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our **own longing** for and **need of forgiveness**, **salvation** and a **new beginning**. Even as we individually and collectively look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both the Christian tradition and on the church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6). This is sometimes referred to as "the 12 days of Christmas."

My hope and prayer for all of us this Advent is that we would all spend some time reflecting on our own personal walk with God and those four items in bold above. God knows every hair on your head, your every word, your every thought and so on...My point to that is do not be afraid to be honest with yourself. God knows you and loves you. No matter where you are on your walk with God, there is potentially more...a deeper and more meaningful daily walk with God is what God desires and this birth that we long for yet again is that which makes it possible.

As the New Year of 2020 approaches, what are your longings and yearnings in the coming year? What can God help you with? Spend some meaningful time in prayer and reflection this Advent and open up your heart and mind to the transforming power of God's love in Christ. Remember the true gift of Christmas is the Gift of Christ; a gift that will never break, never wear out and never grow old...

Finally, please do not forget our special Christmas Eve services which will take place at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm on Tuesday December 24th. But don't just come...be sure and tell your friends, bring your family and spread the Word to all you see as we prepare for a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ. We will remember the blessings of this special night by singing carols, hearing Scripture read and praising God for the ultimate gift of Jesus Christ; the world's Savior!

After the message, we will Celebrate Holy Communion and the service will conclude with the lighting of the Christ Candle and our own personal candles as we sing that familiar and o' so beautiful song, "Silent Night."

In the mighty name of **JESUS**, the one Whose birth into our hearts, mind and the world we long for yet again. **Come Lord Jesus, Come!!!!**

May all your Advent and Christmas seasons be blessed!!!







Kaitlyn Campbell, Director of Children's Ministry

Sunday School 9:45am

K-6 Sunday school

WOW

During 11am service after Children's Time

Children's Choir

Wednesdays 6:15pm

Bible Worms

Wednesdays: 7pm

Happy December!

This month, the Children's ministry has been focusing on Advent and how Jesus gifts us the foundations of this Christmas season - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Our average Sunday school attendance has grown to 7 and our average WOW attendance is 15. We also grew our volunteer core this past month, and are so happy to have helping hands in the classrooms!

This month, there are two things to mark on your calendars:

Sunday, December 15th - there will be a parent & volunteer meeting directly after church. This meeting is open for all parents, current volunteers, and people interested in volunteering. We will be discussing the culture of our children's ministry, as well as VBS.

Wednesday, December 18th -

we will be having a Pajama Christmas Party, beginning at 5pm.
We'll be watching Veggie Tale's "The Toy That Saved Christmas", having hot chocolate, and making crafts!



Thank you all for your kindness, prayers, and support for our children. In Christ, Kaitlyn Campbell





Matt Rodgers, Director of Youth Ministries

Youth Sunday School at 9:45 am 7-12 grades

Wednesdays: 7pm in the Youth Bldg.

Email:

Youthdirector@chinaspringumc.com

Cell: 940-564-0037

November 8 – January 3, 2020

Mid-Winter Individual Registration (Mid-Winter #1)
https://ctc-reg.brtapp.com/MW1IndividualReg2020
Register online with the direct link above. There will be two online forms at sign up that should be brought to the church office or delivered to Matt.

December 8, 2019

Confirmation Class 2PM-5PM Youth Building More information to come.

December 18, 2019

Youth Progressive Dinner 5PM-9PM Meet at Youth Building

Celebrate Christmas with us this year with our Progressive Dinner. We will be visiting four homes of members of our congregation for appetizers, games, lights, carols, dinner, coffee, fellowship, and more.

